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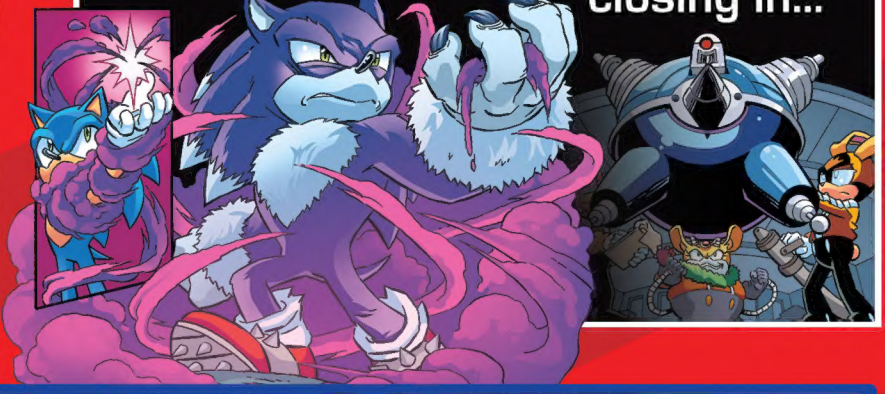
but Dr. Eggman's forces are closing in...



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AMBUSHED!

PART TWO

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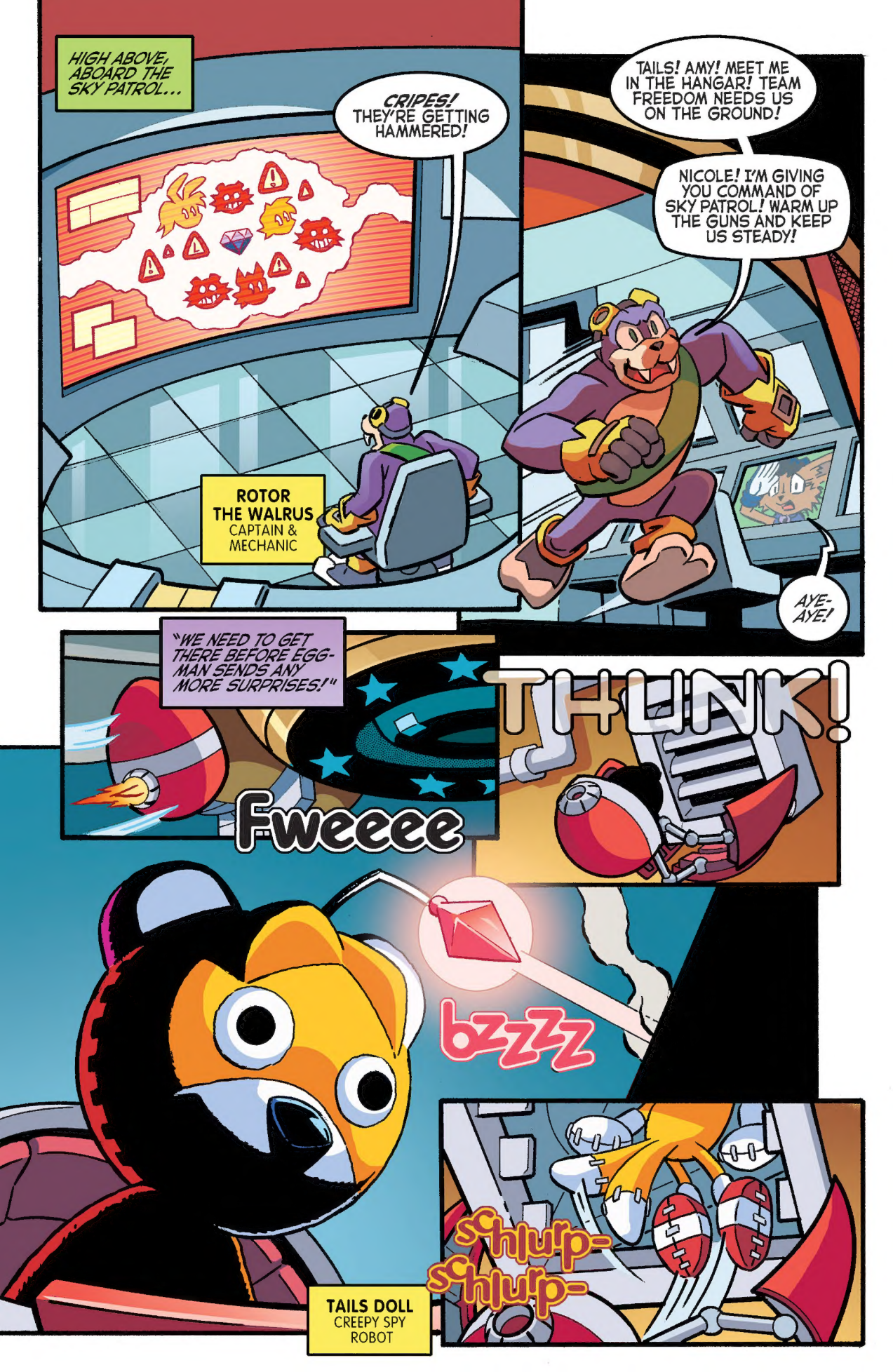
READY TO LOSE AGAIN, OLD MAN?
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO WINS OR LOSES. IT'S HOW YOU RUN THE RACE.
SWOOSH!
THUMP!

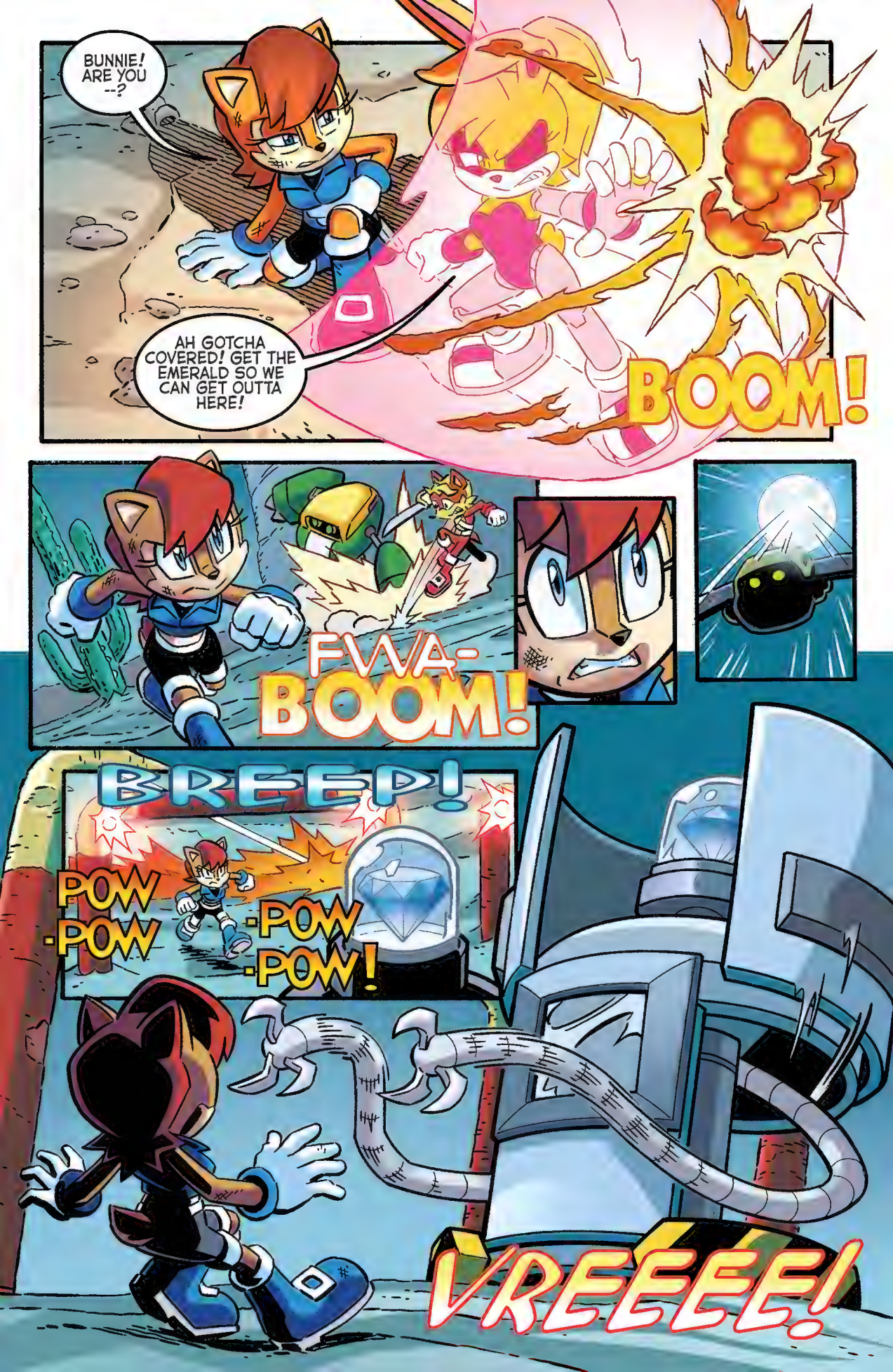
HAHA--FIRST PLACE AGAIN, GRAMPS!
HEY! THAT'S CHEATING!
...IS THAT CHEATING?
MIGHTY THE ARMADILLO PASSIVE POWERHOUSE
RAY THE FLYING SQUIRREL SUNNY FLYER
A RACE WELL RUN, MY FRIEND.
YOU TOO, SHAGGY!
I CAN SEE YOU HAVE ALREADY TAKEN MY TEACHING TO HEART.
YEAH! I THINK I GET IT NOW! MY BODY'S CHANGED, BUT THAT DOESN'T CHANGE ME!
ALL THE SPEED AND POWER'S THERE--I JUST GOTTA UNLEASH IT DIFFERENTLY!
SAME SONIC--NEW FLOW TO MY MOJO!
THE LOOK'S A BIT MUCH, THOUGH.
MEH, SO I GOTTA USE EXTRA SHAMPOO NOW. Y'KNOW, I ALWAYS WONDERED IF I'D GET BETTER TRACTION IN CLEATS...
YOUR PROGRESS HAS BEEN INSPIRING. WHILE YOU COULD USE MORE TRAINING, I KNOW YOU ARE EAGER TO RETURN TO YOUR FRIENDS.
YOU GOT IT. THE WORLD STILL NEEDS SAVING, AND YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT STUNT EGGMAN'S GOING TO PULL NEXT--
KRA-KOOM!

WHERE DID THAT COME FROM ?!
IT'S A SUPER-BADNIK! THUNDERBOLT MUST HAVE SENT IT!
SWEET! ALL THAT RACE DID WAS MAKE ME HUNGRY FOR MORE COMPETITION!
FLYING DYNAMO SUPER BADNIK
ZOT!
WELL, THEN--BON APPETIT.
HAHA! NOW YOU'RE STARTING TO SOUND LIKE 'TWAN!
ARRROOOOO!

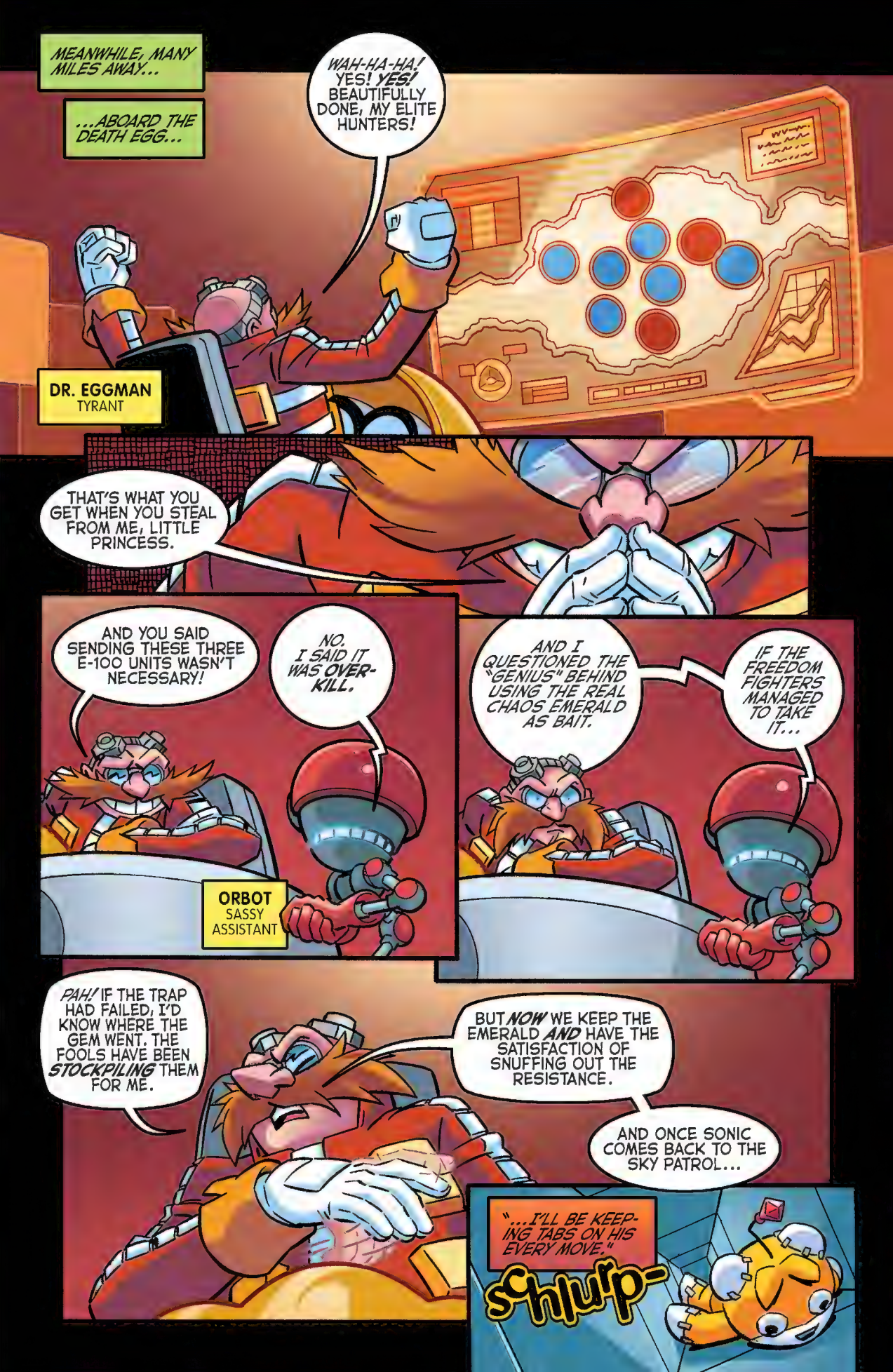
SAND HILL ZONE...
BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!
ANTOINE! BUNNIE! I NEED SUPPORT!
SALLY ACORN PRINCESS & TACTICIAN
E-110 LAMBDA ELITE SUPER-BADNIK
VREEEE!
CRUUUUNCH
IF'N Y'ALL CAN LURE EGGMAN'S BOTS INTO RANGE, AH CAN TRY TO BLAST 'EM--
BUNNIE D'COOLETTE THE RABBOT
--BUT AH CAN'T DO A DURN THING WHILE THAT FLYIN' ONE HAS ME PINNED DOWN!
WITH ALL ZE RESPECTING ZAT IS DUE-- WE ALL NEED ZE SUPPORT!
ANTOINE D'COOLETTE SWORDSMAN
E-109 KAPPA ALSO OF THE ELITE E-100 SERIES
E-108 IOTA AERIAL E-100 UNIT

I SEE IT! YOU SHOULD BE CLEAR FOR THIRTY SECONDS!
I'M SEVEN O'CLOCK-LOW FROM YOUR POSITION!
ROGER THAT, SALLY-GIRL! AH'LL BLAST THAT--
BOOM!
BOOM!
BOOM!
BOOM!
AHHHH!
NO!
HANG ON! I'LL--
NNNGH!
POW-POW-POW-POW!


HIGH ABOVE, ABOARD THE SKY PATROL...
CRIPES! THEY'RE GETTING HAMMERED!
ROTOR THE WALRUS CAPTAIN & MECHANIC
TAILS! AMY! MEET ME IN THE HANGAR! TEAM FREEDOM NEEDS US ON THE GROUND!
NICOLE! I'M GIVING YOU COMMAND OF SKY PATROL! WARM UP THE GUNS AND KEEP US STEADY!
AYE-AYE!
"WE NEED TO GET THERE BEFORE EGG-MAN SENDS ANY MORE SURPRISES!"
Fweeee
THUNK!
bzzzz
schlurp-schlurp-
TAILS DOLL CREEPY SPY ROBOT


BUNNIE! ARE YOU --?
AH GOTCHA COVERED! GET THE EMERALD SO WE CAN GET OUTTA HERE!
BOOM!
FWA-BOOM!
BREEP!
POW -POW
-POW -POW!
VREEEE!

SAL! THE CAVALRY'S HERE!
PERFECT TIMING!
SHING!
SLAM!
KZZT!
THIS MISSION'S A BUST. WE NEED TO--
TACTICALLY RETREAT-- AGREED. EVERYONE BACK TO THE SKY PATROL! WE'LL BLAST THE E-100'S FROM ON HIGH, THEN GET--
--THE EMERALD ?!
BWOOSH!
BOOM!
BOOM!
VORP!
VORP!
VORP!

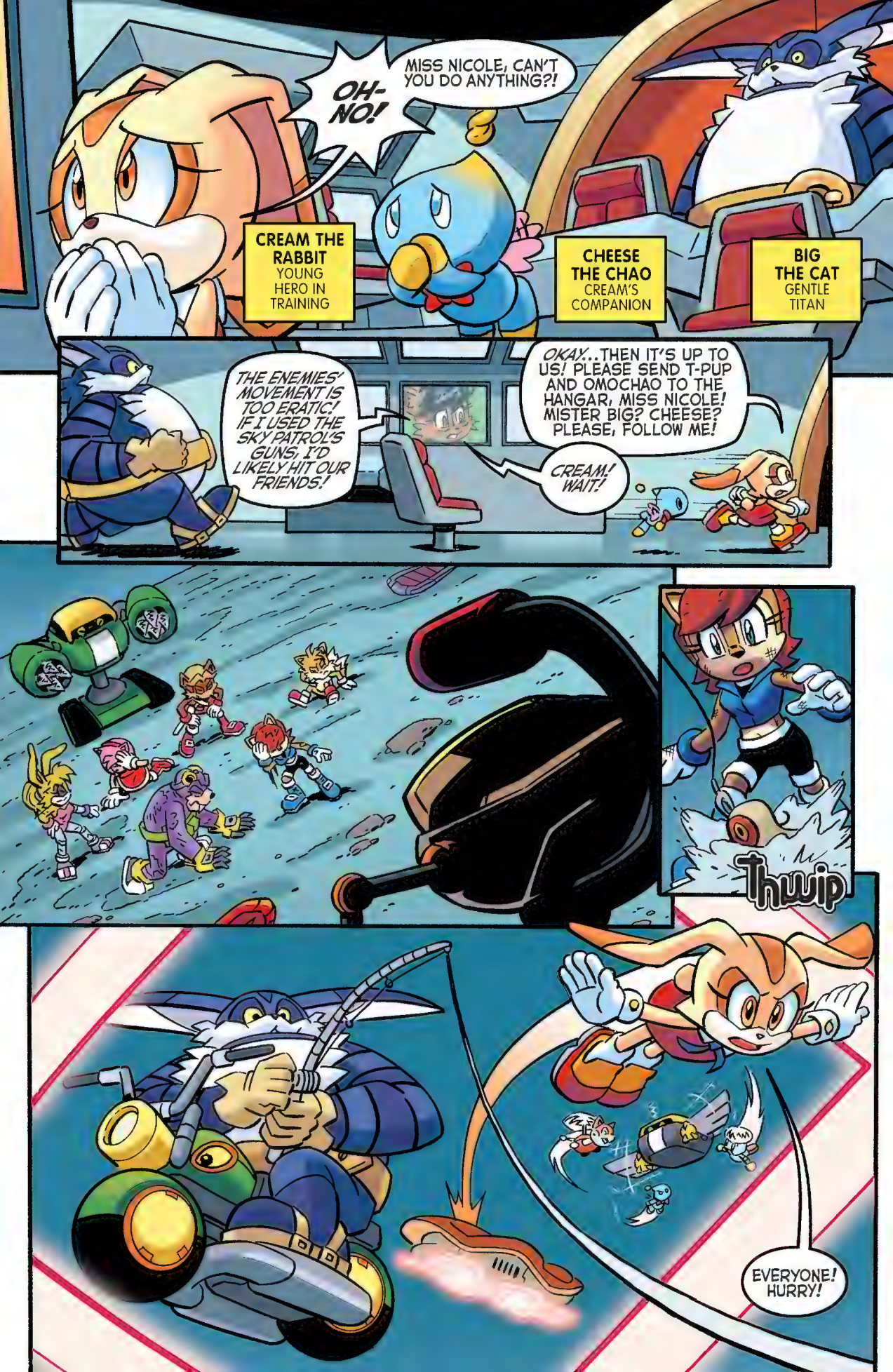

MEANWHILE, MANY MILES AWAY...
...ABOARD THE DEATH EGG...
WAH-HA-HA! YES! YES! BEAUTIFULLY DONE, MY ELITE HUNTERS!
DR. EGGMAN
TYRANT
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET WHEN YOU STEAL FROM ME, LITTLE PRINCESS.
AND YOU SAID SENDING THESE THREE E-100 UNITS WASN'T NECESSARY!
NO. I SAID IT WAS OVER-KILL.
ORBOT
SASSY ASSISTANT
AND I QUESTIONED THE "GENIUS" BEHIND USING THE REAL CHAOS EMERALD AS BAIT.
IF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS MANAGED TO TAKE IT...
PAH! IF THE TRAP HAD FAILED, I'D KNOW WHERE THE GEM WENT. THE FOOLS HAVE BEEN STOCKPILING THEM FOR ME.
BUT NOW WE KEEP THE EMERALD AND HAVE THE SATISFACTION OF SNUFFING OUT THE RESISTANCE.
AND ONCE SONIC COMES BACK TO THE SKY PATROL...
"...I'LL BE KEEPING TABS ON HIS EVERY MOVE."
schlurp-

BACK IN ROCKY JUNGLE ZONE...
ZOT!
RRRRGH!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?!
I'M GONNA SMELL LIKE BURNT FUR FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE...
IF I COULD JUST GET IN CLOSE, THIS'D BE OVER IN A SECOND, BUT--
ZOT!
--IT'S NOT LEAVING US AN OPENING!
...THEN WE'LL MAKE AN OPENING!
WOO! SOUNDS LIKE HE HAS A PLAN!
RAY! KEEP IT DISTRACTED FOR A MINUTE! MIGHTY! FOLLOW ME!
I HOPE IT'S BETTER THAN THAT ONE-LINER.

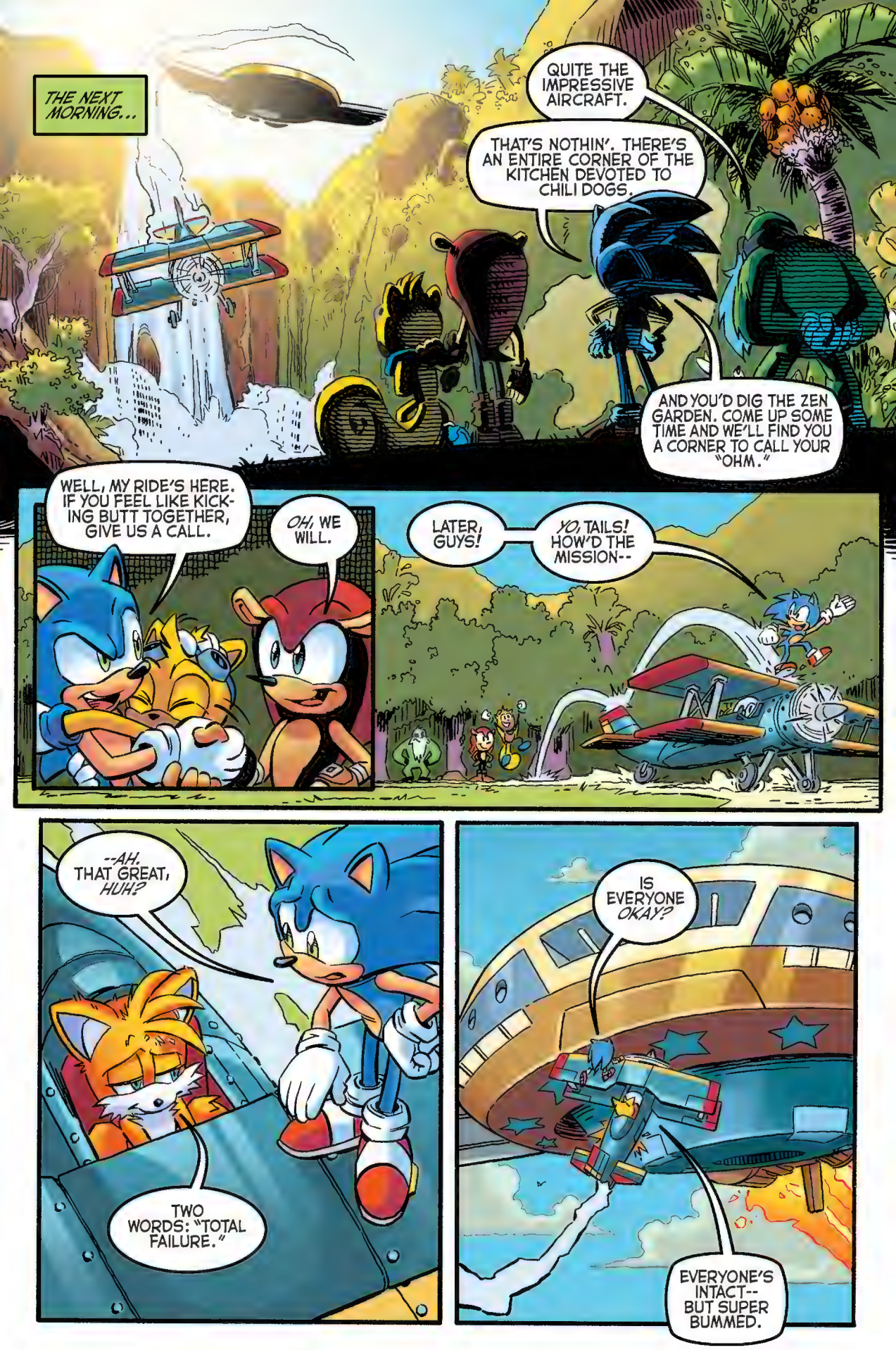
ZOT!
ARE YOU SURE THIS IS WISE?
YOU'RE THE GURU --YOU TELL ME!
ANNNND-- NOW!
CLANG!
THWOMP
WHUD!

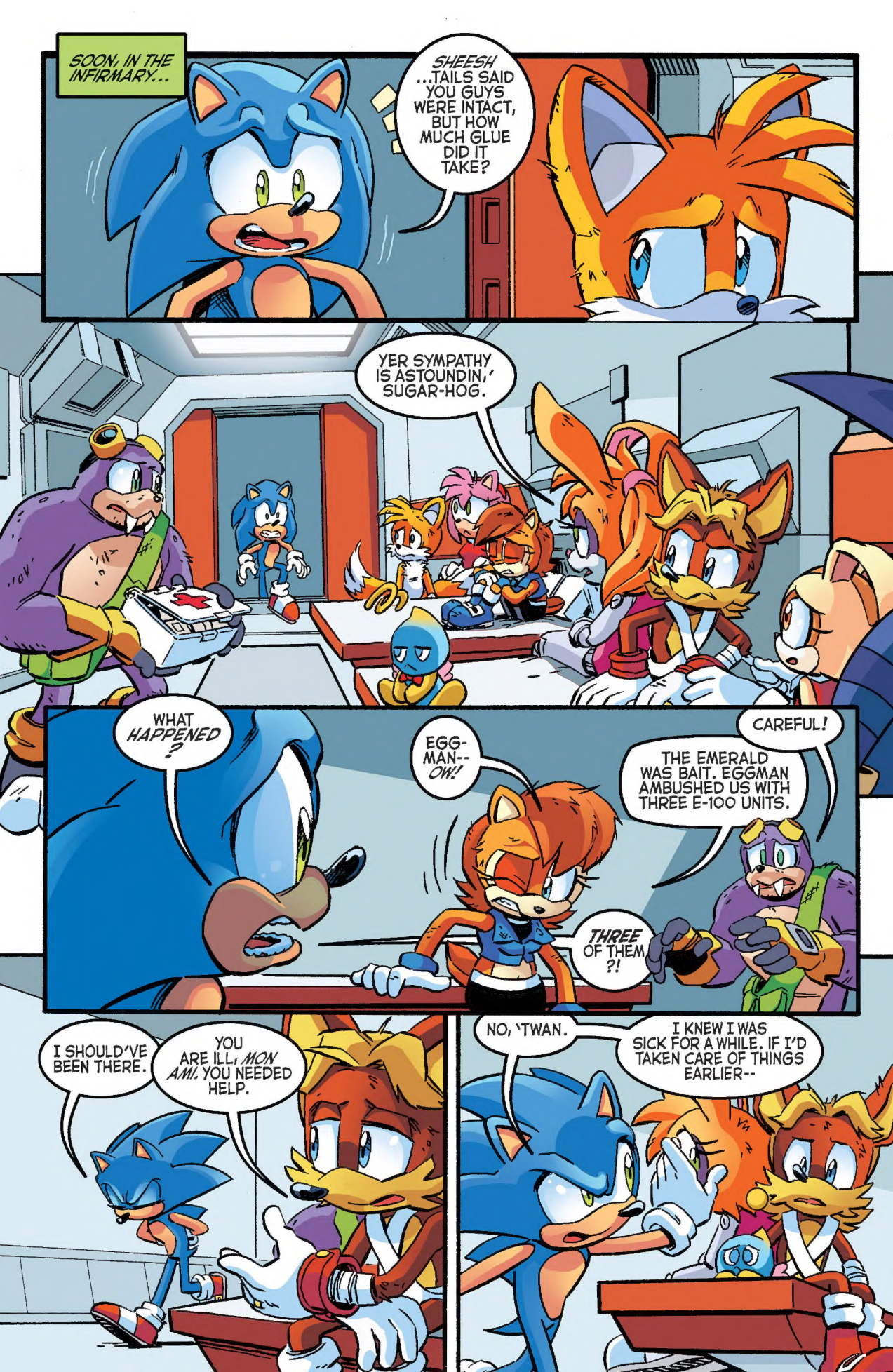
SHRRRIP!
KA-BOOM!
HAHAHA --WOW!
I WONDER WHAT THUNDERBOLT WILL THINK OF THAT!
WERE-BRO-FIST!
CLUD
OFFLINE
KZZZZT!

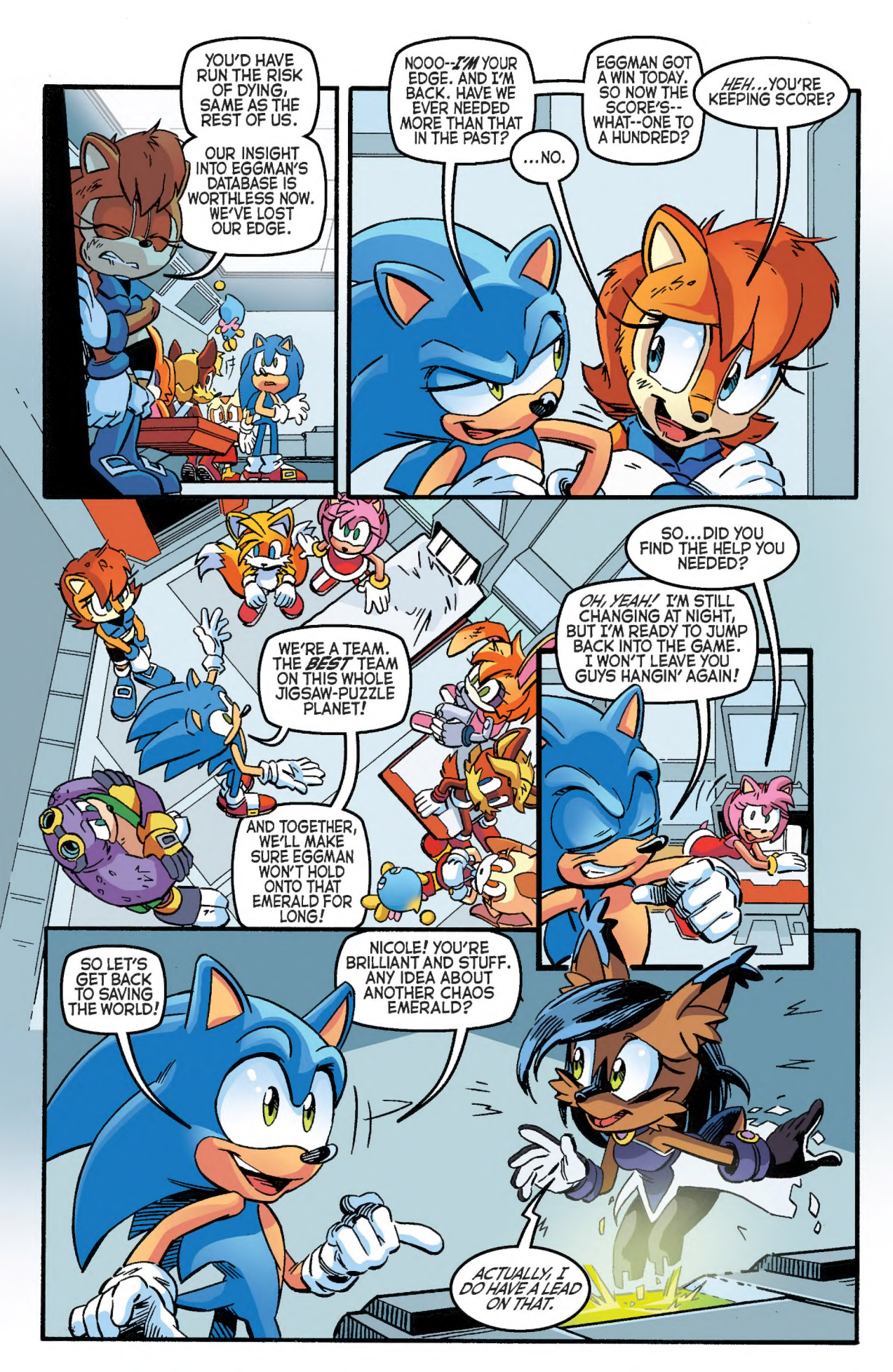
SAND HILL ZONE...
NO WAY TWO OF US ON AN AIRBOARD CAN GET THROUGH.
BUT ONE CAN--WE'LL LIE ON OUR STOMACHS! BUNNIE! TAILS! TAKE FLIGHT! ANTOINE, GET TO THE SPARE AIRBOARD!
WE'RE ONE AIR-BOARD SHORT, AND WE'RE NOT LEAVING YOU BEHIND!
THEN BUNNIE CAN CARRY ME!
WE WON'T MAKE IT PAST THAT FLYIN' BOT!
GUYS! INCOMING! DIRECTLY BELOW!
pthoomp!
BOOM!

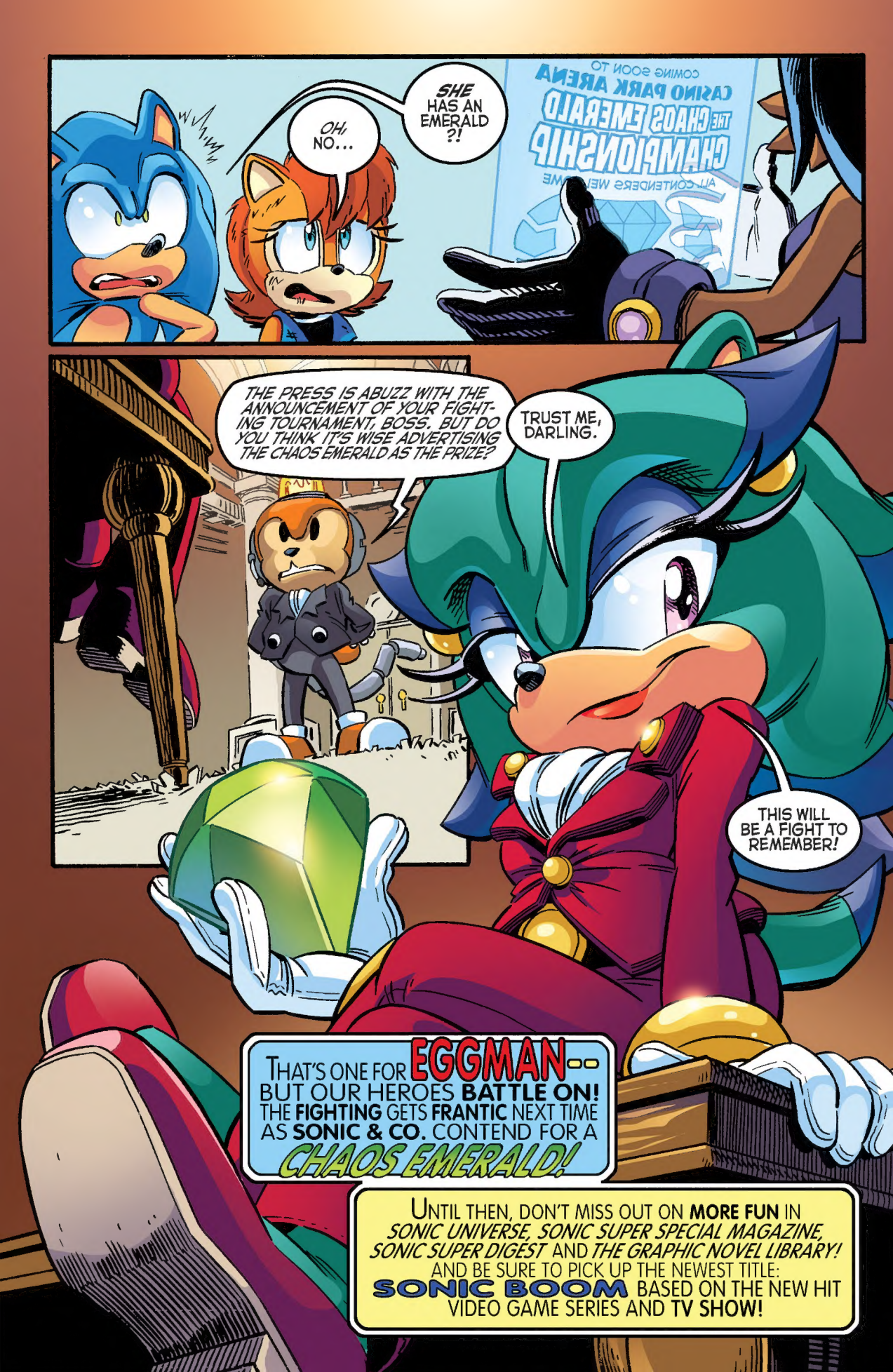

OH-NO!
MISS NICOLE, CAN'T YOU DO ANYTHING?!
CREAM THE RABBIT YOUNG HERO IN TRAINING
CHEESE THE CHAO CREAM'S COMPANION
BIG THE CAT GENTLE TITAN
THE ENEMIES' MOVEMENT IS TOO ERATIC! IF I USED THE SKY PATROL'S GUNS, I'D LIKELY HIT OUR FRIENDS!
OKAY...THEN IT'S UP TO US! PLEASE SEND T-PUP AND OMOCHAO TO THE HANGAR, MISS NICOLE! MISTER BIG? CHEESE? PLEASE, FOLLOW ME!
CREAM! WAIT!
Thwip
EVERYONE! HURRY!

BOOM!
NICOLE! WE'RE ALL ABOARD! GET US OUT OF HERE!
VWOOSH!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
WE LOST THE EMERALD...
FOR NOW. BUT, HEY, WE'LL TRACK IT DOWN AGAIN, AND--
IT WAS ANOTHER TRAP. A BLATANT TRAP. I NEARLY LED US ALL TO OUR DEATHS.
EGGMAN KNEW I'D ACCESSED HIS FILES. HE PLAYED ME LIKE A COMPLETE CHUMP.
AND YOU ALL NEARLY PAID THE PRICE FOR MY SHORT-SIGHTED-NESS.


THE NEXT MORNING...
QUITE THE IMPRESSIVE AIRCRAFT.
THAT'S NOTHIN'. THERE'S AN ENTIRE CORNER OF THE KITCHEN DEVOTED TO CHILI DOGS.
AND YOU'D DIG THE ZEN GARDEN. COME UP SOME TIME AND WE'LL FIND YOU A CORNER TO CALL YOUR "OHM."
WELL, MY RIDE'S HERE. IF YOU FEEL LIKE KICKING BUTT TOGETHER, GIVE US A CALL.
OH, WE WILL.
LATER, GUYS!
YO, TAILS! HOW'D THE MISSION--
--AH, THAT GREAT, HUH?
TWO WORDS: "TOTAL FAILURE."
IS EVERYONE OKAY?
EVERYONE'S INTACT-- BUT SUPER BUMMED.


SOON, IN THE INFIRMARY...
SHEESH ...TAILS SAID YOU GUYS WERE INTACT, BUT HOW MUCH GLUE DID IT TAKE?
YER SYMPATHY IS ASTOUNDIN,' SUGAR-HOG.
WHAT HAPPENED?
EGG-MAN--OW!
CAREFUL!
THE EMERALD WAS BAIT. EGGMAN AMBUSHED US WITH THREE E-100 UNITS.
THREE OF THEM?!
I SHOULD'VE BEEN THERE.
YOU ARE ILL, MON AMI. YOU NEEDED HELP.
NO, 'TWAN.
I KNEW I WAS SICK FOR A WHILE. IF I'D TAKEN CARE OF THINGS EARLIER--


YOU'D HAVE RUN THE RISK OF DYING, SAME AS THE REST OF US.
OUR INSIGHT INTO EGGMAN'S DATABASE IS WORTHLESS NOW. WE'VE LOST OUR EDGE.
NOOO--I'M YOUR EDGE. AND I'M BACK. HAVE WE EVER NEEDED MORE THAN THAT IN THE PAST?
...NO.
EGGMAN GOT A WIN TODAY. SO NOW THE SCORE'S--WHAT--ONE TO A HUNDRED?
HEH...YOU'RE KEEPING SCORE?
WE'RE A TEAM. THE BEST TEAM ON THIS WHOLE JIGSAW-PUZZLE PLANET!
AND TOGETHER, WE'LL MAKE SURE EGGMAN WON'T HOLD ONTO THAT EMERALD FOR LONG!
SO...DID YOU FIND THE HELP YOU NEEDED?
OH, YEAH! I'M STILL CHANGING AT NIGHT, BUT I'M READY TO JUMP BACK INTO THE GAME. I WON'T LEAVE YOU GUYS HANGIN' AGAIN!
SO LET'S GET BACK TO SAVING THE WORLD!
NICOLE! YOU'RE BRILLIANT AND STUFF. ANY IDEA ABOUT ANOTHER CHAOS EMERALD?
ACTUALLY, I DO HAVE A LEAD ON THAT.


OH, NO...
SHE HAS AN EMERALD ?!
THE PRESS IS ABUZZ WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF YOUR FIGHTING TOURNAMENT, BOSS. BUT DO YOU THINK IT'S WISE ADVERTISING THE CHAOS EMERALD AS THE PRIZE?
TRUST ME, DARLING.
THIS WILL BE A FIGHT TO REMEMBER!
THAT'S ONE FOR EGGMAN-- BUT OUR HEROES BATTLE ON! THE FIGHTING GETS FRANTIC NEXT TIME AS SONIC & CO. CONTEND FOR A CHAOS EMERALD!
UNTIL THEN, DON'T MISS OUT ON MORE FUN IN SONIC UNIVERSE, SONIC SUPER SPECIAL MAGAZINE, SONIC SUPER DIGEST AND THE GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY! AND BE SURE TO PICK UP THE NEWEST TITLE: SONIC BOOM BASED ON THE NEW HIT VIDEO GAME SERIES AND TV SHOW!

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